



NEWSLETTER

Summer 2024

As we head towards the end of the summer school holidays, Go Golspie Development Trust hopes everyone has managed to take time to enjoy a break whether at home or away. We would like to thank all those who support us including volunteers, funders and those accessing or benefitting from the community services and projects we deliver.



YMCA BUILDING

As we celebrate the YMCA Building being open for one year already, Go Golspie would like to thank everyone who has used and who is currently using the building for their events and activities. Your support is invaluable and your understanding about the costs involved in running the building much appreciated. Insurance alone annually is over £3,000. Heating, lighting and other bills are about the same with other costs such as cleaning and organising bookings on top.

Our funding remit was to get the YMCA Building open again and operating as an intergenerational community resource. Also to help community groups to be supported with spaces whether that is to re-start such as Youth Club, continue activities such

as the Golspie Hub or Fitness Classes or help new activities such as Mindfulness classes, Fishertown project and Hot Desking bookings. It is now doing that and is also available for private bookings for parties or events but we need your continued support to keep it open and used: THANK YOU!

Reflecting the building's previous use, we were asked to set up a Film Club and have funding for the equipment needed. Depending what people want, the thinking is a monthly meeting through the winter initially - day and time subject to other bookings/ what suits best. This will need volunteers to help organise so we will be setting up an Open Meeting in the Autumn to take it forwards. Please get in touch to register an interest in being involved.



Clockwise from Top Left: The 1 Year Celebration Cake; New Year Community Ceilidh (and image below); Main Hall set up for Film Club

EXISTING PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

Go Golspie Development Trust is a community-led organisation and we continue to be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the community. We have had a busy few months after unexpectedly taking on Golspie Community Food (previously called Food Support) in January 2024 and helping get the Golspie Place Plan off the ground with the community survey. Please be aware when visiting the Go Golspie office (generally open 9am-2pm Monday-Friday) there may be activities taking place in the YMCA Building.

PLAYPARKS



This drawing is an artistic representation of the proposed site and shows the approximate area and position of our play items. This is to ensure all play equipment can be viewed clearly. Refer to the layout plan for exact equipment location. For: 01753 652 160 www.golspie.co.uk Email: info@golspie.co.uk Tel: 01633 624700 (Golf Course, Netherhill, GDS) Area Manager: G. Kemp Designer: J. Pearson

With the funding in place, the Ross Street Playpark upgrade and refurbishment has started. The new equipment should arrive and be installed before the end of this year.

Responding to community requests, the main focus is to make Ross Street playpark more inclusive, and accessible and with new wheelchair accessible

equipment as there is little available locally. There are also dynamic play options being installed and a sensory pathway. Alongside this is upgrading and refurbishment of existing play equipment, new lights, paths, entrance and signs.

Consultation boards were put into the schools and displayed in the YMCA Building for feedback. Everyone

could place stickers on their favourite pieces of equipment which helped gauge the most popular options. The final design includes those choices and we negotiated a couple of extra surprises as well.

At the King George V Playpark, the Highland Council installed two new rainbow picnic benches with a third one being ordered that will be wheelchair accessible.

PLACE PLAN

Thank you to all who replied to the Community Survey in our last newsletter which was the first step in the process of putting together a Local Place Plan for Golspie in time to submit it by the end of September 2024. The survey produced the following summary of local priorities:



The Local Place Plan for Golspie aims to set out our aspirations and priorities for the future and it is great to have as many people providing input to it as possible. The Place Plan is now being co-ordinated and taken forwards by the recently reformed Golspie Community Council so all queries about it need to be directed to them. We remain happy to be involved and help as needed.

GOLSPIE FLOOD DEFENCE PROJECT

Now that the Golspie Flood Group is set up and taking the village wide plan for Flood Management forwards, we remain involved with the Capital Infrastructure project – the Bank and Berm only. This is looking at moving towards applying for regulatory planning approvals and Marine Scotland consents. We are working with the Flood Group on shorter term solutions that could help mitigate the risks of flooding and erosion between the pier and Seaforth House and regarding village wide flood mitigation measures such as helping provide household water butts. This should help start to address some immediate flood issues.

FOUNTAIN ROAD HALL

Fountain Road Hall bookings continue to grow as it caters for smaller group activities as well as being used for larger activities including Community Food, markets, weddings, funerals and vaccine clinics. Insurance at FRH costs over £5,000 a year and with all the other running costs as well your support helps keep it open and is much appreciated.

The Large Hall has now had the SonaSpray Acoustic work completed with positive feedback from those

who use the space particularly choir groups. This improvement will help people speaking at events and open up the building to hold more music activities.

The Community Markets continue to do well and the introduction of more food stalls was well received. Anyone interested in taking a stall please contact us - they are £10 per market.




GOLSPIE COMMUNITY FOOD LARDER

Mondays 11am - 1pm
Wednesdays 2 - 4pm
Fridays 3:30 - 5:30pm

From Fountain Road Hall

Come and help yourself to any food you would like.

Go Golspie Development Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation NO: SC046438

MARKET DATES:

During the rest of 2024 markets will take place at Fountain Road from 11am - 3pm on the following dates: Saturday 24th August, Saturday 28th September, Saturday 14th October and Saturday 23rd November 2024.

We are now operating **Golspie Community Food Larder** three times per week from Fountain Road Hall, with food available outside these times for anyone attending events or activities. We set up a new food outlet at the YMCA Building for those attending activities there and keep the Food pantry behind the Service Point stocked which is open 24 hours a day. When groups need food for their activities (perhaps pizza nights or making soup) we help with ingredients. Community Food is for everyone helping reduce food waste and addressing food poverty.



TRANSPORT UPDATE

Our **Minibus** remains very busy and continues to be used to deliver community activities locally that provide opportunities to get out and about and socialise and also address issues of isolation and loneliness. We take people to Lunch Club (starting again at The Stag's Head in September), Mystery Day Tours and for Walk and Talk walks organised by the East Sutherland Bothy (formerly Golspie Bothy). Some of these are currently funded through the NHI Community Infrastructure Support Programme - many thanks.

With funding secured the deposit has been paid for our replacement minibus which should be with us by spring 2025. It will be similar to the one we have but grey and with an appropriate numberplate our volunteer driver Graham sourced: KW10 BUS.

The bus is available to be booked by individuals and groups locally either with a volunteer driver or with groups own drivers. We ask all our drivers to undertake Midas minibus driver training.

The **Community Car** is always very busy mostly with medical visits to Inverness but also some to Wick and a number for trips locally. Get in touch if you have an appointment coming up and we will do our best to find a volunteer driver to take you.

The new revised **Midas Minibus Driver Training** is now being delivered to help increase the number of trained drivers locally. This is an accredited course

completed in three parts, the first being online with exams, the second being enhanced face to face training at a local level and the final part being a one-to-one driving assessment, which should last for approximately 45 minutes. The first driver (from Caithness) successfully completed his first part online training and exam, followed by his enhanced face to face training and driving assessment in Golspie on Saturday 20th April.

Anyone interested in booking our transport, taking part in activities, with ideas for different activities we could use it for, wanting to become a volunteer driver for us or to take part in Midas Minibus Driving training should get in touch on 01408 634033 or email transport@gogolspie.co.uk.



This page, clockwise from Top Left: The Fountain Road Hall Community Market; Golspie Community Food Pantry; Mystery Day Tour 2024

Facing page, Top Left: Ross Street Playpark Upgrade Proposal

STAFF/ VOLUNTEER UPDATE

We were lucky that at short notice we secured funding from the HTSI Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund (and more recently also the Anne Duchess of Westminster's Fund) and that David Thibault was able to extend his existing Caretaker hours to take on Golspie Community Food. He is now also the main contact for bookings at Fountain Road Hall on frh@gogolspie.co.uk.

We have several new volunteer drivers for both car

and bus which is brilliant as the more we have the more people we can help. A big Thank You to all our Volunteer Drivers without whom we could not deliver our transport services.

We are losing a couple of valuable board members at our next AGM as they retire but we would also extend our sincere thanks to them for all their work and support.

BOARD MEMBERS

To replace members who are stepping down, we are looking for a new Treasurer and new Board members at our next AGM on Tuesday 27th August at 7pm in Fountain Road Hall.

All are welcome to attend. If you are interested in knowing more about Go Golspie Development Trust and what is involved with being on the board, please get in touch via chair@gogolspie.co.uk, call 01408 634033 or visit the YMCA Building: the office is generally open 9am - 2pm Monday to Friday.

WEBSITE

We continue to update and upgrade the website and now have the YMCA Building Availability calendar set up. We have also created a new "What's On" page for events and activities taking place locally. Please get in touch if you would like something included.

FACEBOOK

Our Facebook followers continue to increase and currently stands at 587.

MiDAS Minibus Driver Training

Go Golspie Development Trust has an accredited MiDAS Training assessor for minibus drivers and can also provide training for volunteers wishing to drive community minibuses.

The first part of the training and exam are completed online, followed by enhanced face to face training and a one-to-one driving assessment. A nationally recognised certificate, valid for 4 years, will be awarded on successful completion of the training.

For further information please contact Go Golspie Development Trust either by email at transport@gogolspie.co.uk, by phone on 01408 634033 or call in to the office at the YMCA Building, East Millicent Avenue, Golspie KW10 6TL and have a chat.

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VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED!

Do you drive?
Do you have any spare time?

Volunteers are needed to help continue the excellent community transport service provided by Go Golspie Development Trust.

Full training will be provided for the electric car and the minibus.

For further information or an informal chat please contact transport@gogolspie.co.uk, phone 01408 634033 or pop into the Go Golspie Development Trust office at YMCA Building, East Millicent Avenue, Golspie KW10 6TL

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CURRENT CHARGES: FOUNTAIN ROAD HALL AND YMCA BUILDING (mainly unchanged for several years):

Large Hall (both buildings): £15 per hour	Kitchen: £10 (up to 4 hours use)	Half day for halls/spaces and kitchen: £100/£75 Voluntary organisations	Youth Groups: £6 per hour per space
Small Hall / Youth / Community Space: £10 per hour	Whole Day (9-5) for Halls/Spaces and Kitchen: £200/£150 voluntary organisations	Children's Birthday Parties: £35 for up to 3 hours	Funerals: £200
			Weddings: please enquire

